



DAIRY FARM ISSUE FARM LABOR NEWS

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50 Cents Per Year

Wisconsin Farmers Join The AFL

By John Banks, Jr.
President, Dairy Farmers Union
Local No. 293

For some time groups of dairy farmers had been meeting and talking about an organization. Then we heard about American Federation of Labor's Farm Union which was organizing dairymen in New York State, New Jersey, and elsewhere. We called on the Central Labor Union in Superior for help and also contacted the Unions in Duluth, Minnesota, and with their help called a meeting.

Gets 700 New Members

The first open meeting was held June 28. We did not expect more than 100 farmers and were greatly surprised to have between 300 and 400 present. The discussion at this meeting was long. However, they unanimously voted to organize into the AFL Farm Labor Union. We elected officers and applied for a charter and set a goal of not less than 500 paid up members in the next 30 days. We were not prepared at the meeting to sign up all those present and ran out of applications. The farmers there volunteered to sign up others and two days later we had 150 more members signed up in the county. By August 1, we had nearly 700 applications for membership. A meeting is being held on Saturday, August 5, at which time a representative of the National Union from Washington is expected. We expect at least 500 farmers to attend.

Conditions of Dairy Farmers

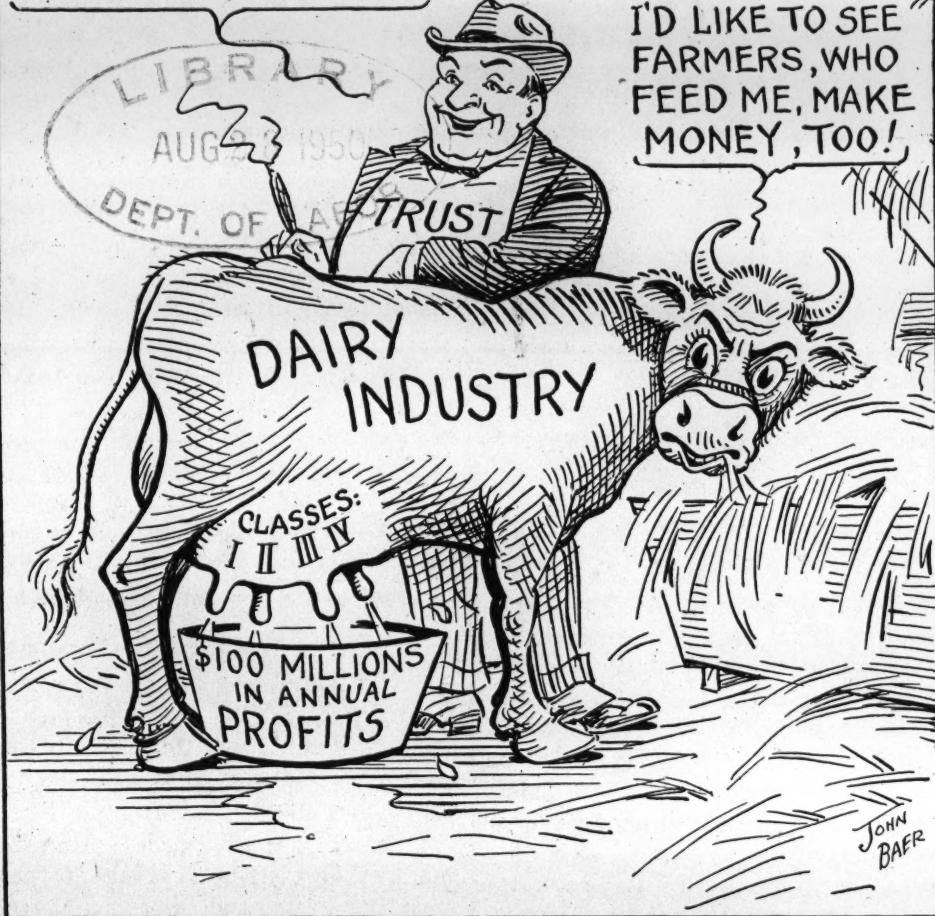
We have here in this milkshed (Duluth-Superior) what they call a Federal Milk Order which was brought in here some years ago and is based on the average prices throughout the Midwest. We cannot compete with the southern Wisconsin and Illinois farmers because their cost of production is far less than ours. We are strictly dairy farmers up here. When the cow fails us, we fail. We depend greatly upon our alfalfa and clover hay which this north country can really grow, but we can't grow corn and soy beans. Our seasons are against us. In order for us to survive it is a must that we organize and organize under the AFL. This is something the farmer should have done years ago. We have had the wholehearted support of the AFL here. It can be made possible through this organization that we farmers can make a decent living, but in this country a farmer will never get rich. We are going all out for a complete organization in this whole milkshed.

At our meeting June 28, we had visitors from other milksheds who were favorably impressed, and I be-

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I'M NOT DOIN' SO BAD
UNDER THESE GOVERNMENT
MILK CONTROL ORDERS!

I'D LIKE TO SEE
FARMERS, WHO
FEED ME, MAKE
MONEY, TOO!



TO DAIRY FARMERS

Are YOU receiving production cost for fluid milk, based on standard and accepted accounting principles, plus a return on your invested capital?

Are YOU satisfied with waiting until the middle of the month following shipment to find out what you will receive for your milk?

Do YOU have cows in your herd that give 7 different kinds of milk as per the present classification system?

Do YOU have any PROTECTION against unfair discrimination or intimidation by Federal, State, City or Dealer rules, regulations or ordinances?

Do YOU receive any benefits or protection from a one sided contract? Your answer to the above questions can only be "NO"!!

If you desire to join a Dairymen's Union which will help you get as a member the following:

1. Production Cost for your milk, based on a butterfat test with butterfat differential for each 1/10% variation therefrom.
2. Elimination of classification of utilization system and thereby know when the milk leaves your farm what your price will be.
3. Elimination of unfair competition price cutting and thus assure a steady market for every farmer's milk.
4. Assure honest weight, butterfat tests and check of reported high bacteria counts.
5. Protection against imposition, intimidation, fraud or other violations of law.

If the answer to the above question is yes, then fill out this blank and mail it to the Dairy Farm Organizing Council, National Farm Labor Union AFL, 825 Victor Building, Washington 1, D. C.

I, the undersigned, am interested in being a member of the AFL Union for Dairy Farmers now organized or to be organized in the near future at the town of It is understood that I am under no obligation until I am contacted by an authorized representative and receive a full explanation and present a formal application for membership.

Name..... Age.....

Address..... RFD No..... Box No.....

Town State

My milk is sold to

Name of Dealer

Address of Dealer

I deliver..... lbs. of milk..... per day..... per week..... per month.....

N.J. Dairy Farmers Win Price Increase

Local 277 members have gotten a price increase of 44c per 100 lbs. granted by the State Milk Control Board, according to Local President Charles Barbay. The increase was granted after a brief was submitted by the Union at the Trenton hearings May 5 and 6. President Barbay and over 100 of the Local's members attended the hearings. Other organizations supposedly representing New Jersey dairymen did not put up a fight for an increase in milk prices. Apparently they figured the prices New Jersey farmers were receiving were as high as the dairy trust wanted to pay.

On August 1, President Barbay of the New Jersey Dairy Farmers Local 277 announced that negotiations had been started with the Borden and Sheffield plants located near Newton, N. J., in reference to prices paid producers, union security and other matters of mutual interest. The Local represents almost 100 per cent of the producers delivering milk to the Borden and Sheffield Companies.

Farmers Aid Workers Organize

Employees of 16 unorganized dairy processing plants in the area covered by Local 277 are now being organized by the Teamsters Union of Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees whose headquarters are in Newark. President Barbay stated also that the majority of the workers in five of the plants had already been signed up and that members of Local 277 had been of assistance in the organizing campaign, persuading their neighbors and friends employed in the plants to join the A.F. of L.

Local Hears Speakers

On Wednesday, August 2, a mass meeting was held in Newton by Local 277 which was attended by 500 dairy farmers. The meeting was addressed by Vincent Murphy, Secretary of the New Jersey Federation of Labor and former Mayor of Newark; Thomas H. Parsonnet, labor attorney of Newark; Lewis Hermann of Newark, State Assemblyman; Clarence Little, Sussex County Assemblyman; and Amos Dixon, former member of the State Legislature. All pledged their support to the efforts being made by the Union to improve conditions of the New Jersey dairy farmers.

NEW LOCALS LISTED

During the month of July the following Local Unions were organized:
Fresno, California, Local 213.
New Berlin, New York, Local 291.
Butler, Pennsylvania, Local 292.
Superior, Wisconsin, Local 293.
Forrest City, Arkansas, Local 294.
South Berlin, New York, Local 295.
Salinas, California, Local 296.

The Farm Program Vs. Income Farmers

By Veniette Caswell, Executive Secretary
National Council on Agricultural Life & Labor

The numerous farm plans and bills that have confronted the American people in the last few years have tended to confuse the issue of the need for a long-range farm program.

The American people also have been confused as to how well the average farmer fares today. They believe in many instances that farmers became rich during the war—that they are being kept rich by taxes and high prices paid by the consumer.

It is true that some farmers made fortunes during the war and now are increasing their holdings but the number is small when compared with those who didn't make money and are as bad off as they were before the war.

Secretary Brannan has pointed out that the average farmer is the low-income farmer. The low-income farmer includes a sizeable portion of the farm population—owner-operator, tenant, sharecroppers, hired hand and migrant. Many farmers did not have the capital or land to cash in on the higher prices during the war. Wages went up but living costs went up even more. Most of these people are back where they started at the beginning of the war—no money and little prospect of a steady income.

It is important, therefore, to know what steps have been taken toward maintaining a stable strong farm economy and to what extent these steps benefit the low-income farmer.

The Agricultural Act of 1949

The present farm law known as the Agricultural Act of 1949 or the Anderson-Gore Bill was a compromise designed to replace the Hope-Aiken Bill passed by the Republican 80th Congress. It reflects, in general, the Democratic party policy of high supports while the Republican-sponsored Act of 1948 supported prices at lower levels.

The Act of 1949 provides:

- 1) A double standard of parity. The first is the old parity based on the relationship between prices prevailing in 1900-14 and those today. The second is based on the preceding 10 years plus cost of farm labor and other items not included in the old parity;
- 2) Certain crops called "basic" (corn, wheat, cotton, rice and peanuts) must be supported at 90 per cent of parity in 1950, not less than 80 per cent in 1951 and between 75 and 90 per cent thereafter. Tobacco gets more preferred treatment;
- 3) Dairy products must be supported from 75-90 per cent of new parity. Wool including goat or mohair, tung nuts, honey and potatoes get 60-90 per cent. All other crops may be supported at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Price Programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture

The U. S. Department of Agriculture carries on through the Commodity Credit Corporation and the Production and Marketing Administration, a number of operations implementing the farm programs established by law. These operations referred to as price programs include the price-support program, the international Wheat Agreement, section 32 programs, the National School Lunch Program, Marketing Agreement and Order Programs and the Sugar Program.

Price-Support Program

Under the price-support program price minimums or floors are established for a number of commodities. The government supports the price of farm products through loans, purchases or agreements to purchase or a combination of these methods. Prices are to be kept nearly at "parity". The parity price of a farm commodity is a standard for measuring the purchasing power of that commodity in relation to prices of goods and services during a definite base period.

Price support is mandatory for corn, cotton, wheat, tobacco, rice, peanuts, wool, mohair, tung nuts, honey, Irish potatoes and milk and butterfat. Support for other commodities is permitted at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture.

International Wheat Agreement

The International Wheat Agreement is designed to insure wheat markets to exporting countries and wheat supplies to importing countries at equitable prices.

The Agreement covers four marketing year—from 1949-50 through 1952-53. As of April 1950 four exporting countries (U. S., France, Australia, Canada) may ship a maximum of about 456 million bushels of wheat to 34 importing countries. The United States at the present time is exporting about 169 million bushels to the 34 importing countries. The exporting countries are obligated to sell wheat only at the maximum price of \$1.80 per bushel in terms of U. S. currency. Importing countries are obligated to buy wheat only at the minimum price beginning at \$1.50 per bushel in 1949-50. Between the floor and the ceiling wheat is free to move at prices agreed upon between buyer and seller.

Section 32 Programs

Congress has passed legislation providing for widening the market outlet for farm commodities. This legislation (section 32 of Public Law No. 320,

74th Congress) authorizes the Department of Agriculture to channel surpluses to useful outlets both at home and abroad. Surplus removal operations under section 32 tend to strengthen farm prices.

The programs are financed from funds equal to 30 per cent of receipts collected under custom laws. The funds are used to encourage export, increase utilization of surplus agricultural commodities among people in low-income groups and direct farm commodities to new markets and new uses.

The Agricultural Act of 1949 amended section 32 to provide that the funds be devoted principally to perishable nonbasic agricultural commodities and their products.

The National School Lunch Program

The National School Lunch Program encourages the domestic consumption of nutritious agricultural commodities and other food by assisting the states through grants-in-aid and other methods to provide for nonprofit school lunch programs.

The state must enter into an agreement with the USDA as to minimum requirements for federal assistance and terms of grant. Federal funds must be matched by state funds.

Schools participating in the program make use of surplus foods as well as commodities purchased under section 32 operations. Lunches must be served free of charge or at a reduced rate to children unable to afford the full cost of the lunch. The state must submit a plan of operation each year. Schools carrying on nonprofit lunch programs but not participating in the national lunch program can receive surplus foods acquired under section 32.

Marketing Agreement and Order Programs

The Marketing Agreement and Order Programs established by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 aim to establish orderly marketing conditions for certain commodities and their products. In April 1950 market agreements and order programs were in effect for milk, fruits, vegetables, nuts and hops.

Under the milk order program minimum prices are established that handlers or distributors have to pay producers of milk. Milk is classified according to use and prices are determined for various uses.

For commodities other than milk various types of regulations are used—including control over quantity, quality, control and disposition of surpluses; prohibition of unfair trade practices, etc. These regulations unlike milk order programs do not establish prices that must be paid producers. Prices, however, tend to be raised or maintained under the regulations.

The Sugar Control Program

The Sugar Program is designated to protect the consumer and domestic producer of sugar. Prices of sugar are stabilized through the regulation of sugar imports and the marketing of domestic sugar.

The Secretary of Agriculture under the Act determines the consumption requirements of continental United States for the next year. This determination is not necessarily final but may be changed during the year as required.

The USDA then makes payments to domestic producers of sugar. Domestic sugar is produced in continental U. S., Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Payments are made only if producers comply with certain labor, wage, price and marketing requirements prescribed by law.

Price-Support Program and Low-Income Farmers

When World War I ended there were no farm support programs to cushion the shock of lessened demand. Farm prices shot down more than 40 per cent between 1919 and 1921. Farm incomes fell off more than 60 per cent. Our farm economy remained in a deep depression for 20 years until the advent of the second World War and the great demand for farm products.

In 1950 we have price-support programs. Our total national income and production are at an all high peak. There has been an increase in farm income, production, mechanization and efficiency since the beginning of World War II.

Yet farm incomes in 1948 were estimated at \$905 per capita, all items considered, as compared with \$1,572 for nonfarm people. Recent studies of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report indicate that of the nearly 10 million American families receiving less than \$2,000 cash incomes in 1948, about 3.3 million lived on farms. Half of these farm families had cash incomes in 1948 of less than \$1,000.

The Subcommittee on Low-Income Families of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report has recommended a thorough investigation of the effect of the farm price support programs on farm families in different income groups.

Problems of Low-Income Farm Groups

The low-income farmer has special problems. He may have a farm which cannot provide him with a decent living. There probably is no supplemental employment nearby. His productivity is low because he does not

(Continued on page 3)

Supplement Farm Labor News

Vol. 5, No. 9



Washington, D. C., August, 1950

50 Cents Per Year

Charges Plot To Cut Pay Of Farm Workers

WASHINGTON — Bills before the House authorizing importation of farm workers from the West Indies and Central America are part of a campaign to cut the pay of American farm laborers. Edwin C. Mitchell of the National Farm Labor Union (AFL) made that charge before the House Agricultural Committee July 10. Ed Mitchell is the brother of NFLU President Harry L. Mitchell.

Mitchell testified after spokesmen for southern and western farm operator appeared in support of the bills. To bolster his case, he submitted statistics gathered by the state of California to show an abundance of American farm labor available on the west coast. However, he ran into sharp opposition from Committee members.

Rep. E. C. Gathings (D. Ark.) asked why an Arkansas farmer would go to all the trouble to import labor if there was plenty available locally. Mitchell pointed out that when Mexicans were brought into Arkansas under a State Department agreement with the Mexican government, wages for picking cotton dropped nearly \$1 per 100 pounds.

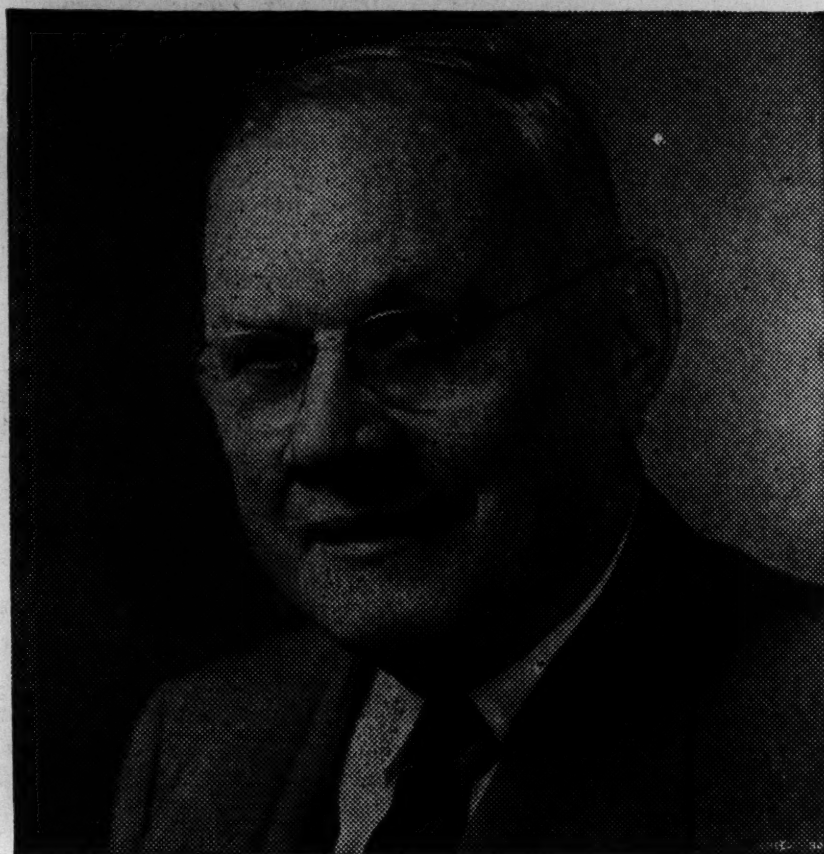
Congressman Meets Match

Gathings, who represents the worst elements among the Arkansas cotton planters, asked the Union spokesman how a man like him could know anything about cotton planter's labor problems. The reply was, "Where do you think I got this southern accent? I know all about Arkansas. I spent 15 years of my life in Poinsett County, which is part of the district you represent, and only left because of low wages and mistreatment of sharecroppers." In replying to other questions asked by Dixiecrat members of the Committee Ed Mitchell made it plain where he stood on labor problems and the race question. All reports indicate that "Took" Gathings got taken for a ride in the exchange with the Union leader.

Nationals Skip Contracts

The Congressmen also heard revealing testimony from some of the government agencies as well as the big farm operators. W. J. Kelly, Chief Enforcement Officer of the Bureau of Immigration, told the Committee that Mexican nationals brought in under contract skipped out from the farms stating that as many as 68 out of 100 left. Many had been picked up as far away as Chicago. He said that over half the Mexican nationals brought into Arkansas, Mississippi and Missouri jumped their contracts in 1949. Kelly also said that the number of wetbacks entering the United States had jumped from 6,000 in 1941 to 600,000 in 1949. Big farmer representatives readily admitted un-

HAILS GROWTH NFLU



WILLIAM GREEN
PRESIDENT
AMERICAN FEDERATION of LABOR

The President of the American Federation of Labor sent the letter below to H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, upon receipt of a report that the Union had gained 7,366 new members and organized 26 local Unions since the Samuel Gompers Memorial Organizing Drive was launched January 1.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I appreciate the information submitted in your letter dated July 28th very deeply. It is indeed gratifying to note that the National Farm Labor Union of which you are President has been making decided progress. I hope this progress which you reported upon will be continued.

As your organization grows and expands, it will exercise increasing efforts to promote the economic welfare of the workers and their political welfare as well.

I express the hope that you may continue to grow and expand and that ere long your organization will be a power and influence among farmers and farm laborers throughout the nation.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM GREEN, President
American Federation of Labor

Day-Dreaming

Foreman: "Have you ever wondered what you'd do if you had Rockefeller's income?"

Farm Worker: "No, but I've often wondered what he'd do if he had mine."

der questioning by the Committee that they employed wetbacks. They also claimed the American farm workers would not work on their farms.

The House Committee on Agriculture agreed to send a subcommittee to the southwestern states to conduct an investigation as requested by the big farmers. This move is seen as an effort to offset the findings of the impartial Commission set up by President Truman which is currently investigating all phases of the agricultural labor problem.

WARREN INVESTIGATES FARM LABOR IN CALIF.

The Committee appointed by Governor Earl Warren to look into agricultural labor problems in California has also been holding hearings. At the first field hearing in Fresno, W. A. Swearingen, Organizer, represented the National Farm Labor Union; at a hearing in Bakersfield, William Becker presented the Union's position. In Tulare, Hugh C. Williams of Porterville and O. T. Tarr of Visalia made excellent statements to the Governor's Committee. Labor is represented on the Committee by Secretary C. J. Haggerty of the California Federation of Labor and C. H. Cary, Secretary of the Fresno Trades and Labor Council. Both are proven

President's Commission Holds Hearings

The President's Commission on Migratory Labor began public hearings in Washington on July 13 on the problems of agricultural labor. Among those appearing were Edwin C. Mitchell, representing the National Farm Labor Union, who submitted a comprehensive statement on behalf of the President of the Union. Other organizations whose representatives appeared at the Washington hearings were the NAACP, the National Grange, Farmers Union, Farm Bureau, The Child Labor Committee, Consumers League, Home Missions Council, National Catholic Rural Life Conference, the C.I.C., the AFL Typographical Union, the Sleeping Porters, and others.

Field Hearings in the Southwest

Hearings were scheduled for Brownsville and El Paso, Texas; Phoenix, Arizona; Los Angeles; and Fort Collins, Colorado. The Commission indicated that hearings would also be held in the southern and midwestern states as well as along the Atlantic coast.

Commission Report Due in December

The Commission, set up by President Truman at the request of the National Farm Labor Union, is scheduled to make its report in mid December of this year. It is empowered to investigate all phases of the agricultural labor problem. It is hoped that the Commission will make strong recommendations for legislation to protect farm labor.

friends of the farm worker and his Union in California.

Representatives of the Associated Farmers and other groups of big farmers opposed the extension of unemployment insurance to the California farm workers and suggested impossible remedies instead of giving the workers on the big farms their rights. Representatives of the Chamber of Commerce, on the other hand, feeling they are paying a subsidy to maintain the big farmers by providing relief, appear to favor unemployment insurance for workers. The Governor of California is also on record in favor of unemployment pay for farm hands.

A representative of the Bureau of Immigration told the Committee at its hearing in Bakersfield that 167,000 illegal alien wetbacks were rounded up in 1949 in California and that nearly all were farm workers. There was no estimate made as to the number who were not caught by immigration officers.

AFL Calls For Political Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO. — Pledges of militant support for the fight against world communism and domestic reaction featured the national meeting of the AFL Labor's League for Political Education held July 17-18 in Washington, D. C.

President William Green presided at the vital two-day conference of AFL leaders held at the Washington Hotel in the national capital.

A policy statement was adopted, declaring that the reactionary opponents of labor have proven bad security risks "not only on domestic policy but in fighting the Communists abroad."

In a review of American labor struggles, the statement maintained: "We recognize that the best liberal legislation in American history was enacted following the election of President Roosevelt and a liberal Congress in 1932. After the mid-term Congressional election setbacks in 1938, labor was faced with a hostile Congress until 1946. Only the Presidential veto prevented the enactment of reactionary anti-labor laws."

The statement then treats of the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Act by the 80th Congress and of the subsequent founding of Labor's League for Political Education by the American Federation of Labor.

In providing teeth for a major labor drive against reaction on the home front, the committee voted that all national and international unions, and all affiliates of the AFL, shall immediately instruct their regional and district representatives to call regional meetings of all local union officers for the purpose of taking the following actions:

(1) Set up within each local a committee designated as the Registration Committee. This committee shall conduct a drive among the membership with the goal of registering every member and his or her family so that they will be qualified to vote in the November elections.

(2) Set up a committee designated as the Contribution Committee to conduct a drive among the members for voluntary contributions. The goal shall be a voluntary contribution from members and friends. Funds shall be forwarded to the LLPE national office each week as collected.

(3) Impress upon their members the urgent need for their full and complete cooperation with state and local leagues of the AFL political arm.

MEXICAN LABOR PLAN APPROVED

Washington. — The United States and Mexican governments have worked out a plan for giving a legal status to thousands of migrant Mexican farm laborers who annually work in the Southwest without required immigration permits.

The Immigration Service has located more than 500,000 such workers

Judge Issues Injunction Against Picketing Law

Organized labor won a clear cut victory in Tulare County, California, recently with the issuance of a permanent injunction against the enforcement of the county's so-called anti-caravanning ordinance. The decision was handed down in an action filed last fall following the arrest of William Trafton, former organizer for the National Farm Labor Union, for violation of the ordinance in the cotton pickers' strike of the Union last October.

The action was filed by J. H. McLaughlin, Secretary of the Tulare-Kings Counties Labor Council, and named as defendants the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, sheriff, district attorney and the justice of the peace who issued the warrant for Trafton.

The permanent injunction which was issued following a trial on June 8th corresponds to a previously issued preliminary injunction and bars the defendants and their agent from:

1. Attempting to enforce said Ordinance No. 222 of Tulare County, California, so as to obstruct, abridge or in any manner interfere with the constitutional rights of plaintiff, the said Labor Council, the said affiliated unions or the members, thereof, to free speech as expressed by peaceful picketing, whether by means of individual pickets, on foot, or pickets in automobiles, acting in concert, or to publicize the facts of their labor disputes by picket banners or emblems or inscriptions or other form of writing, or by word of mouth, including the use of amplifiers or loud-speakers.

2. Prosecuting in any court or courts plaintiff or any of said union organizers or members for alleged violation of said Ordinance No. 222.

3. From pressing or continuing the prosecution of said William Trafton before any other court or tribunal whatsoever; and it is further ordered that any bail which may have been advanced, posted or deposited by or on behalf of said William Trafton in connection with said prosecution be and the same is hereby exonerated.

The decision was handed down by Superior Court Judge Frank Lambersson, and it is understood that the Board of Supervisors and other defendants do not intend to appeal.

The council filed the initial action which won the temporary injunction but was joined in securing the permanent injunction by the California State Federation of Labor represented by the law firm of Todd and Todd.

in the Southwestern States during the past year.

The Justice Department said that an agreement has been reached under which the migrant laborers will be temporarily readmitted to Mexico, where they will be allowed to apply for legal admission to the United States at any one of these several ports of entry.

Wanted: 55,000,000 Votes in November

Washington. — Liberals want 55,000,000 votes cast for congressmen in November.

The AFL Labor's League for Political Education says the closer we come to that goal the better Congress we will get.

Every AFL member registered, all voters in his family registered, all friends registered. That is the first goal.

The second goal is to get them all to vote in November.

Every local AFL union has been asked to establish a registration committee and a contribution committee to work for the election of a liberal Congress this year.

How can you be sure that the next Congress will be better than this one? You can be certain of that by voting Nov. 7. It's as simple as that.

Washington Economist Louis Bean, who predicted the outcome of the 1948 elections in the summer of that year, shows the importance of a big election day turnout in his book, "The Midterm Battle," to be published Aug. 21.

In 1940 more than 45,000,000 votes were cast for congressmen. A pretty good Congress was elected. In 1942 less than 30,000,000 went to the polls. In 1943 you got the anti-labor Smith-Connally Act. The act called for a "cooling-off" period before strikes and barred political contributions by unions.

Again, in 1944 the vote for congressmen climbed to about 45,000,000. Then in 1946 the vote in the congressional elections dropped to 35,000,000. And in 1947 you got the Taft-Hartley Act.

Finally, in 1948 the vote for congressmen shot up past 45 million. And, of course, you got the 81st Congress.

Mr. Bean points out the present Congress would have been much more liberal than it now is if the vote in 1948 had been "normal." He says that ever since 1940 there have been about 10,000,000 "lost" voters.

By that he means that the increase in voters has not kept up with the increase in the number of persons over 21 since 1940.

NEW LOCAL IN ARKANSAS

On Monday night July 31, Vice President F. R. Betton installed the Charter of Farm Labor Union Local No. 294 at Forrest City, Arkansas. About 100 members attended the charter installation, and among them were many old timers who fought for rights of sharecroppers in the old Southern Tenant Farmers Union from 1935 to 1945.

The officers elected by the new local are, President, James A. Sisk; Vice President, Margaret Banks; Secretary-Treasurer, Veola Bailey.

Secretary Bailey, in reporting the meeting, said that the interest was so high that Vice President Betton was drafted to return for the next meeting of the Local on August 9th.

SOCIAL SECURITY LAW MAY PASS SOON

The Senate and House Conferees on the new social security law have about reached an agreement whereby 10 million more workers will be covered and the benefit payments raised over 75 per cent.

However, the Knowland amendment adopted by the Senate, which will practically wreck the Unemployment Insurance part of social security, is being opposed by President Truman and both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. Under the amendment proposed by Senator Knowland of Calif., the Secretary of Labor would be prohibited from enforcing standards providing for the distribution of federal funds while state courts pass on his rulings. The Knowland proposal is designed to force unemployed workers to become strike breakers and is typical of the Republican Dixiecrat tactics to destroy the rights of free labor in the United States.

The provisions of the new social security bill extending old age and survivors insurance to farm workers is disappointing to the National Farm Labor Union. This section provides that only regularly employed farm workers may qualify for coverage. To be under the social security law a farm worker must be employed three months steady for a single employer and then work at least 60 days and earn over \$50 on the same job during the next calendar quarter.

According to H. L. Mitchell, President of the National Farm Labor Union, if a few farm workers are included it will be a beginning, and the Union can hope to secure coverage for all farm people at later dates.

RANCH FOREMAN GOES TO PRISON

Ralph Leon Robles, 26, a ranch foreman, was sentenced to serve two years imprisonment in a federal penal institution for smuggling Mexican aliens across the border into Arizona.

He pleaded guilty to six counts of an indictment and was given a like sentence on each count, the terms to run concurrently.

Federal Judge Campbell E. Beaumont recommended the defendant serve his time in the Tucson, Ariz., road camp.

Says Fee Was \$200 each

Assistant United States Attorney Herschel Champlin said the government looks upon alien smuggling as a "most serious matter," especially in view of the fact Robles was supposed to collect \$200 from each alien.

In opposing probation, Champlin called attention to the fact the six aliens involved have been held in protective custody as material witnesses since Robles was arrested last February 20th.

Robles denied bringing the aliens across the international boundary but admitted going into Mexico himself and arranging to pick them up when they had crossed the border.

The Farm Program Vs. Income Farmers

(Continued from page 2)

have adequate farm machinery. He lacks the capital to improve or enlarge his farm and he is faced with insecurity of tenure.

He does not have the opportunity to benefit from a good basic education. Housing and health facilities are poor. He is not protected by social security, minimum wage guarantees or unemployment compensation.

Most small farmers are not in the price system but rather in the wage system. They receive a portion of their income from farming and another from work on other farms and other occupations. Thus, they benefit only indirectly from government price programs and soil conservation programs since they have little or nothing to sell. Price support legislation sustains farm employers' wage-paying ability but does not help the hired farm worker unless the supply of farm labor is in relatively close balance with the demand.

In addition, many large farmers in the South have shifted sharecroppers to day labor in order to avoid dividing the profits from price supports with them.

Who Benefits From Present Price Support Programs

Under the present farm laws it is apparent that much of the federal aid goes to support the incomes of large commercial and corporate farmers with little direct benefit seeping down to the family farmer and the farm laborer.

In 1945 two per cent of our farms were selling 25 per cent of the value of all farm products while 50 per cent were selling only ten per cent of the products.

The commercial farmer receives direct subsidies from the government in the form of price supports and indirect subsidies in the form of avoidance of fair living and working standards. During the war the government granted another subsidy. It secured foreign farm labor and paid the transportation of these workers to and from the point of employment. Since small farmers generally hire few outside laborers, they did not profit from this subsidy. In addition, the farm worker found himself in competition with thousands of imported farm laborers, chiefly from Mexico and the British West Indies.

Secretary Brannan reported before the Sub-Committee on Low-Income Families in December 1949 that: "The price and income supports I have suggested, in common with all other price support systems, fall short of meeting the needs of those operators who lack enough good land and enough capital to produce the necessary volume with the necessary efficiency for a good standard of living. . . . For a properly balanced farm program, much more assistance must be rendered to low-income farm families to complement the programs that are geared more directly to the needs of their more fortunate brothers."

Proposed Solutions to Farm Problems

In recent months several farm proposals have been offered and discussed. Among the most important ones are the Brannan Plan, the Republican Subcommittee Plan, the National Grange Plan, the Dolliver Plan, the Lovre Plan, Senator Lodge's plan and several others.

The chief aim of the Republican Subcommittee Plan is to encourage a switch from crops to livestock with increased livestock production at the expense of crops bringing a decrease in the cost of price supports.

The National Grange proposal calls for almost a complete change in the entire farm setup. It provides for a bipartisan Federal Farm Commission of twelve to advise the Secretary of Agriculture in applying various measures from expansion of marketing agreements to production payments.

Rep. James Dolliver (R., Iowa) has proposed a plan including compensatory payments on perishables such as eggs, pork and butter, commodity loans on basic storables and flexible supports for both perishable and non-perishable products.

The Lovre Plan proposes that a national board elected by farmers should determine domestic needs and allot marketing quotas throughout the country.

The Brannan Plan

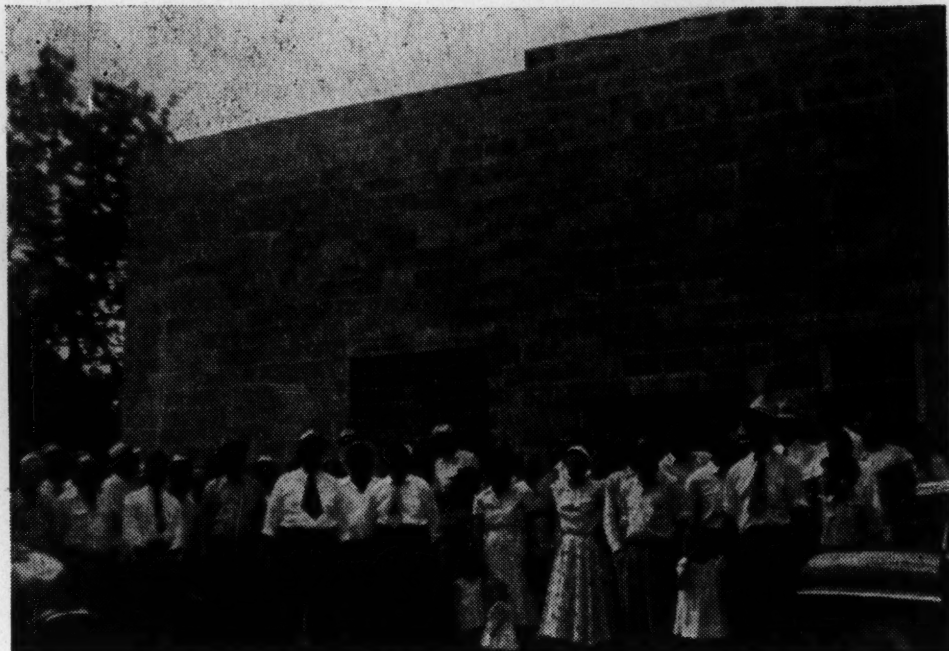
The Brannan Plan sponsored by Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan and endorsed by President Truman is the most controversial of all the plans. It represents a marked change in agricultural policy and calls for a minimum of government controls in the areas of production and marketing.

The plan is designed to encourage family size farms and end huge individual payments. Support would be limited to a prescribed volume of production or 1800 "comparative units" per farm. A "comparative unit" is an amount of a commodity value equal to 10 bushels of corn.

Farmers would be permitted to produce as much as they want. If large crops result, prices would be allowed to drop as far as they will. This will favor the consumers who will pay less for their food and thus be able to buy more of the better foods. To make up for the low prices, the government will pay each farmer an amount that will bring his total income up to what would be considered a fair return.

The proposal is intended to provide price support for about 70 per cent of farmers growing perishables such as vegetables, dairy products, eggs and fruits. It sets up two priority groups of commodities to be supported at full parity—the storables such as corn, cotton, etc. and the non-storables such as milk, eggs, chickens, hogs, beef and lambs.

The New Milk Plant Soon to Open for Business



Hold Open House

On Sunday July 2, dairy farm locals 236 at Amite, Louisiana, and 237 at Franklinton, Louisiana, held an "Open House Celebration" announcing the completion of a farmer owned milk cooling plant, sponsored by the AFL Farm Labor Unions. About 600 dairy farmers attended the grand opening of the plant they built with their money and labor, investing approximately \$50,000 in land, building, and latest dairy equipment.

An announcement was made that the new plant would begin operating on or about October 1, and it is estimated that over half of the fluid milk going into the city of New Orleans may be handled through the plant. Adequately equipped with machinery for preparation and storage of dairy farmers products, it is expected that the plant will be a leverage for breaking the strangle hold the milk trust has on the farmers in the New Orleans milkshed.

The plant is to be operated by a farmer owned and controlled organization known as the Southeast Louisiana Dairy Products Inc. which was formed by the members of the dairy farm locals in Louisiana.

Help the Farmers?

Wiley Is Too Busy

On June 2 Alexander Wiley (R., Wis.) got up in the Senate and said:

"I shall now ask unanimous consent to be absent from the Senate next week because of the necessity

of getting home and spending a little time on the hustings. . . ."

Let's see. During the week of June 5 the Senate wasn't doing much. Just discussing a bill of great importance to every Wisconsin farmer. The debate was on a measure to make the Commodity Credit Corporation (which runs the farm price support program) better.

And Wiley decided that campaigning and promising in Wisconsin was more important than looking after the interests of the farmers in his state.

—League Reporter.

WISCONSIN FARMERS JOIN THE AFL

(Continued from page 1)

lieve this union will spread quickly. However, we aren't interested in the large farmers in the southern part of the state. This organization of dairy farmers is going to bring labor and the farmer close together where we can see each others problems. The St. Paul Milkshed should be organized, and no doubt they will when we go into action. We must act surely and wisely, but fast.

The following were elected as officers of the Dairy Farmers Union Local No. 293: President, John L. Banks, Jr.; Vice-President, Lyle Downey; and Secretary-Treasurer, Robert L. Fancy.

Couldn't Win

A Union member approached Henry. "We're having a raffle for a poor widow," he said. "Will you buy a ticket?"

"Nope," Henry replied, "my wife wouldn't let me keep her if I won."

Penn. Dairymen's Join Union

Dairy farmers in Pennsylvania now have a union.

It is the AFL Associated Milk Producers and Handlers, which is seeking members in a four-state area, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio and West Virginia.

Charter Installed

It was given a charter by Edwin C. Mitchell, Washington, D. C., representing the National Farm Labor Union A.F. of L., who presented the charter to Edward J. Dittmer, Butler R. D. 6. It will be known as Local 292, under a charter issued by the AFL Farm Labor Union.

Dairy Farm Organizing Drive Underway

A dairy farm organizing council has been set up by H. L. Mitchell, president of the National Farm Union-AFL. A charter has been authorized for Superior, Wis., dairy farmers serving the Duluth marketing area. There are, in addition to the Pennsylvania and Wisconsin locals, fifteen local unions chartered in New York state, one local union chartered for the entire state of New Jersey, and three local unions in Louisiana.

Officers Listed

Elected officers of the Associated Milk Producers and Handlers Local 292-NFLU-AFL are as follows: President, Edward J. Dittmer, R. D. 6, Butler; Vice President, Carl Bachman, R. D. 3, Butler; Secretary-Treasurer, Donald J. MacDonald, R. D. 2, West Sunbury.

Executive Committeemen, Joseph Logut, North Washington; Robert Saxman, R. D. 3, Butler; Dale Fleming, R. D. 1, West Sunbury; J. Ray Simpson, R. D. 4, Butler.

Trustees, three-year term, M. R. Schick, R. D. 1, Sarver; two-year term, Lester English, R. D. 1, Evans City; one-year term, Allison Tarr, R. D. 1, Cabot; sergeant-at-arms, Arthur M. Dunn, R. D. 1, West Sunbury.

Why the Dairymen Join AFL

Among the reasons stated by officers and members of the new union for joining the AFL Farm Labor Union was the failure of the Keystone Milk Producers Association to secure cost of production under the state milk control law. Following a Milk Control hearing last January a number of leading dairymen who were officers and members of the independent association decided that their only hope was affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. They formed an organization known as the Associated Milk Producers and Handlers of America and sought the assistance of the Teamsters Union in securing A.F. of L. affiliation. The Teamsters Union officers, considering the fact that dairy farmers have many problems that could only be worked out

in a farm organization, recommended that the group apply for a Charter from the National Farm Labor Union, one of 105 National and International Unions affiliated with the A.F. of L.

According to Donald J. MacDonald, Secretary-Treasurer of the Local, this organization is a dairy farmers union for dairy farmers. To be eligible for membership an applicant must be a producer. While "hobby farmers" can join, no one can hold office unless he receives over 75% of his income from the sale of milk products.

Farmers Had No Influence

MacDonald is also quoted as saying, "As individual farmers or as members of independent milk producers associations we had no protection or political influence. The dealers can shut a producer off from his market and the state milk control commissioners laugh at the dumb unorganized farmers. All attempts made to secure economic justice and security have been abortive. It was just like sending a wee boy on a man's job. Our new Union can and will do a man's job for each and every member. The officers and members are not trying to use the Union to further political aspirations or for personal gain. We are joined together to help each other and through joint effort secure and assure our economic freedom as dairy farmers."

Union Leaders Believe in Unionism

MacDonald said also that the Union is not fighting anyone except communists, fascists and bundists. He said we teach as union members tolerance of our fellow men.

The Local Union official said that some of the dairy farmers in the Pittsburgh milkshed were defaming unions and condemning the actions of the Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 205 who recently won a bitter strike lasting three weeks for securing more money for their members. He called attention to the fact that just a few years ago the drivers and plant employees were working for "peanuts" as the dairy farmers are today.

Over 700 Join in Less than 30 Days

As the Farm Labor News goes to press we are informed that this local union now has over 700 applications for membership which will be acted on at their next union meeting. The potential membership in this area is from 12,000 to 15,000. The independent Keystone Association had at one time 11,333 members shipping to Pittsburgh. On January 1, there were 7,472 producers selling in the Pittsburgh market through the Dairy Sales Co-operative Association. It is this association that the Associated Milk Producers and Handlers Local 292 plans to replace and carry on collective bargaining for its members.

Paid \$100 a year, now \$2 a month

MacDonald said that he had been a member for a number of years and

Union Demands Action At Milk Hearing

On August 3 the Associated Milk Producers and Handlers Union Local No. 292 NFLU, had representatives appear at the Pittsburgh hearing of the Pennsylvania Milk Control Board and presented a brief prepared by the Local Executive Board.

The Union proposed a four point program on behalf of its members, which was as follows:

1. A Request is made that the average annual costs of production as compiled by the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at the Pennsylvania State College be used by the Commission as the Basic Price for four (4) per cent milk produced by our Members.

2. A Request is made that the Commission eliminate the present classification of utilization and place all milk received from Producer Members on a Basic Flat price per hundredweight for milk with 4.00% butterfat content, b.ob. purchasing milk dealers processing and/or, bottling plant located nearest producers farm. All milk to be purchased on an annual basis, except for possible short time emergencies due to a shortage of supply of milk. The Dealer will be obligated to take all the milk supplied by his producers as provided under Sec. 4, Sub-Sec. (f) titled Optional Purchase Plan Applying to Minimum Producer prices as per Official General Order No. A-344, effective Feb. 15, 1950.

3. A Request is made for a Butterfat Differential of Seven (7) cents per hundredweight for each one-tenth (1/10) variation from the normal four per cent Butterfat test.

4. A Request is made to the Commission for authority for Members Dues Deductions by the Dealer Purchaser and payment of same to be made to this Union of Dairy Farmers for Dairy Farmers. Full compliance with the necessary rules and regulations of the Commission will be completed with your Bureau of Enforcement.

An analysis of settlements for milk shipped to the Reick McJunkin Dairy Company of Butler, Pennsylvania plant for a period of 12 months was submitted, showing that the producers did not secure production costs as set forth by the State College witnesses under the state law.

The Union representatives charged that the milk prices set by the Commission have never equaled cost of production.

had paid 5c per hundred weight as dues to the Keystone Association and that he had received few benefits for his \$75 to \$100 a year dues. The new Union local dues are fixed at \$2.00 per month.

New Locals In New York

During the month of July, Organizer L. N. Gregory of Ellenburg Center assisted his fellow dairy farmers in New York in setting up two more local Unions. One is located at New Berlin and the other at South Berlin in Chenango County. The New Berlin Local 291 was chartered with 20 members, and the following were elected officers: Leslie Button, President; Charles Mickalunas, Vice President; Albert Stratton, Secretary-Treasurer.

The South Berlin Local 295 had 26 charter members, and George Tuna was named as President, Michael Tesla, Vice President; Mrs. John Harrison, Recording Secretary, and Jesse Sargent, Financial Secretary.

There are now 15 local unions in New York State and officers and members are planning to hold a state convention early in October for the purpose of perfecting organization and launching a state wide drive.

L. N. Gregory, Mrs. Gregory, and Miss Loretta Gregory attended the New York State Federation of Labor Convention in New York City July 31, August 1, and 2. President H. L. Mitchell of Washington addressed the Convention on the second day of its sessions, telling the one thousand delegates of the progress made by the National Farm Labor Union in their state. President Mitchell reported that there were 15 local unions and 2,400 farmers now affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in New

CALF EATS FARMER'S CHECK

I. Lee Parker, organizer for the National Farm Labor Union in Louisiana, thought he knew all the answers to the problems of dairy farmers, until Union member Creel Addison reported that one of his calves had eaten a milk check amounting to \$154. For the moment Parker was baffled. There had been many problems dairy farmers had brought to him, but this was the first of its kind. Lee got payment stopped on the check, and a new one issued. He hopes that from here on out the calf has a change in diet from \$154 milk check to calf food.

Farm Labor News

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